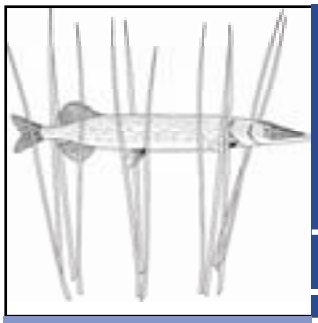

The Lake Davis Update

January 23, 2007

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Lake Davis Pike Eradication Project Decision Announced

After several years of control and containment efforts at Lake Davis, the state formally announced plans Tuesday to eradicate the predatory, non-native northern pike. Department of Fish and Game (DFG) officials will again treat the Plumas County reservoir, which is on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land, some time after Labor Day weekend with CFT Legumine, a new liquid formulation of rotenone, one of the only chemicals licensed to kill fish in California, said DFG Director Ryan Broddrick.

"Today's announcement culminates nearly eight years of working in partnership with the local community, the Lake Davis Steering Committee, and other government officials to examine every option possible for tackling the pike problem in Lake Davis," Broddrick said. "It has truly been a remarkable effort, and concluding this plan represents the safest and most effective means, with the fewest environmental and associated economic effects possible, to eliminate the northern pike from the only place they are known to exist in California."

"It's imperative this eradication project quickly moves forward," Broddrick said. "Given the ever-increasing pike population, the increasing incidence of anglers catching pike, recent known incidents of anglers moving live pike, and the potential for spilling of the reservoir in extremely wet years, it is critical to minimize any delay."

DFG will seek approximately $12 million in Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) funding from CalFED to implement the project. The CalFED ERP has identified halting the unauthorized introduction and spread of potentially harmful non-native introduced species of fish, such as pike in Lake Davis, in the Bay-Delta and Central Valley as a strategic objective (CalFED 2000).

Project Highlights

- Treatment Date: Some time between Sept. 5 and Oct. 31, 2007
- Lake Volume for Treatment: 45,000-48,000 acre-feet, or as close to 45,000 acre-feet as possible if 45,000 acre-feet cannot be maintained
- Rotenone Formulation: CFT Legumine. If needed, supplemental use of a safe and minimum amount of Noxfish
- Pre-treatment trout stocking of nearby waters in the Lake Davis vicinity
- Pre-treatment liberalization of bag limit to 10 trout at Lake Davis
- Post-treatment trout stocking in Lake Davis
- Continuation of well monitoring program
- Mitigation for unlikely, but potential impacts to the local drinking water supply

The project approval documents and EIR/EIS can be found at the DFG pike web site at **www.dfg.ca.gov/northernpike.**

For more information...

Attend the DFG and USFS sponsored

Workshop

on

February 8, 2007

6—9 p.m.

at the

Veteran's Memorial Hall

449 W. Sierra
Portola, CA

California Department of Fish and Game

P.O. Box 1858
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L. Ryan Broddrick, Director

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What's Next

The USFS will make its decisions later this month about whether to issue a Special Use Permit and two forest closures.

In February, the Department of Health Services (DHS) plans to hold a workshop to present DHS's draft determination of the permanent impact of the pike eradication project on the water quality of Lake Davis and adjacent groundwater. DHS plans to circulate the draft determination document on Feb. 1, 2007 for a 30-day public comment period. More information will be available on DHS's website at **http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/**

As the project moves towards a planned late summer treatment, DFG will obtain several permits and approvals from a variety of state, federal, and local agencies, including the USFS, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Fish and Game Commission, DHS, and DWR, among others.

The Process

This project has been the subject of review since Sept. 14, 2005, involving a joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) by DFG and USFS, and extensive outreach to the local community.

The original proposed project in the September 2005 Notice of Preparation was to treat the reservoir at 15,000 acre-feet. "The environmental review process worked," Pert said. "We learned that treating at a level between 45,000-48,000 acre-feet would have the fewest recreational and other environmental and associated economic impacts on the local community. In addition, the analyses conducted during the environmental review process indicated that a lower amount of water in the reservoir doesn't necessarily mean rotenone would be more effective." According to DFG's proposal, a liquid formulation of rotenone, a common piscicide, will be applied to the reservoir at a volume between approximately 45,000-48,000 acre-feet and to its upper tributaries.

"There are a number of factors different with this planned project compared to 1997," Pert said. Those factors include: better communication with the local community; improved working relationships and cooperation with the USFS and other agencies; the wide range of options considered; better planning, including a number of environmental monitoring activities before, during and after the treatment; and use of a rotenone formulation that doesn't contain pipeornylbutoxide, which persisted in the reservoir in 1997.

Because of factors beyond DFG's control that could prevent maintaining the reservoir volume at a minimum of 45,000 acre-feet at the time of treatment, DFG has approved a contingency plan that would provide for treating below 45,000 acre-feet, but as close to that level as possible. "We should be able to determine the need for the contingency plan by May, using water level projections from the Department of Water Resources (DWR)," Pert said, "unless factors other than weather and snow-pack are involved." In addition, in the unlikely event enough CFT Legumine cannot be obtained, DFG would supplement with a minimum and safe amount of Noxfish, an alternate rotenone formulation.

What's the Problem with Pike?

Pike are a non-native, invasive species that have devastated the local fishery and have had a subsequent negative impact on the local economy since 1999, when they reappeared after a controversial pike eradication project in October 1997. Despite control and containment efforts since 2000 – approximately 60,500 pike have been taken from the reservoir since then – the pike population continues to grow. If they escape, pike could cause irreversible ecological and economic harm to other areas of the state, including the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. The threat of pike escape is increasing, as anglers are catching more pike. During an enforcement checkpoint in May 2006, two anglers were found moving live pike. In addition, small pike were discovered for the first time near the spillway when Lake Davis came within 27 inches of overflowing last winter.